



General Assembly

February Session, 2002

Raised Bill No. 553

LCO No. 2247

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:
(PH)

***AN ACT ADDRESSING THE SHORTAGE OF RADIOLOGICAL
TECHNOLOGISTS AND OTHER ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
AND ADJUSTING THE NURSE-TO-TECHNICIAN STAFFING RATIOS
FOR KIDNEY DIALYSIS UNITS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2002*) (a) The Office of
2 Workforce Competitiveness, in conjunction with the Labor
3 Department, shall coordinate with the Department of Higher
4 Education and the Board of Trustees of the Community-Technical
5 Colleges to ensure that credit courses in radiological technology,
6 pharmacy and laboratory technology are (1) offered in the state on a
7 regional basis, and (2) counted toward the fulfillment of requirements
8 for state licensure.
- 9 (b) Within available appropriations, the Board of Trustees of the
10 Community-Technical Colleges shall expand existing programs of
11 study in radiological technology and laboratory technology by offering
12 weekend and evening courses in such programs.
- 13 (c) The Office of Workforce Competitiveness, in conjunction with
14 the Labor Department, shall develop a strategy to encourage hospitals

15 in this state to establish hospital-based training programs in the areas
16 of radiological technology and laboratory technology which focus on
17 transitioning incumbent health care employees into such areas.

18 (d) Within available appropriations, the Board of Governors of
19 Higher Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of Public
20 Health, shall administer a low-interest student loan program for
21 residents enrolled in programs of study or taking courses leading
22 toward state licensure in radiological technology, laboratory
23 technology or pharmacy. The board of governors, in consultation with
24 the Commissioner of Public Health, shall adopt regulations, in
25 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to
26 establish (1) procedures to administer the low-interest student loan
27 program, and (2) participation guidelines, which shall be based on
28 income.

29 (e) (1) The Board of Governors of Higher Education, in consultation
30 with the Commissioner of Public Health, the Board of Trustees for
31 Community-Technical Colleges and the Board of Trustees of the
32 Connecticut State University System shall establish a program for the
33 forgiveness of loans provided by the state to residents for radiological
34 technology, laboratory technology and pharmacy education within the
35 state. The loans shall be forgiven if the resident obtains a state license
36 and remains employed at a hospital in this state for at least two years
37 after obtaining such license.

38 (2) Not later than January 1, 2004, the Commissioner of Higher
39 Education shall submit a status report in accordance with the
40 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes on the establishment
41 and operation of the loan forgiveness program authorized under
42 subdivision (1) of this subsection to the joint standing committee of the
43 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
44 and public health.

45 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2003,
46 the Commissioner of Public Health shall adopt regulations, in

47 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes,
48 establishing nurse-to-technician staffing ratios for out-of-hospital out-
49 patient dialysis units and in-hospital dialysis units. Such regulations
50 shall specify that a minimum of one licensed nurse shall be employed
51 in each such unit for every two patient care technicians employed in
52 such unit. For purposes of this section, "out-of-hospital out-patient
53 dialysis unit" means a licensed facility that provides services on an out-
54 patient basis to persons requiring dialysis on a short-term or for a
55 chronic condition or training for home dialysis, and "in-hospital
56 dialysis unit" means a special unit of a licensed hospital designed,
57 equipped and staffed to offer dialysis therapy on an out-patient basis,
58 and to provide training for home dialysis and renal transplantation, as
59 appropriate.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To address the shortage of radiological technologists and other allied health professionals in this state and to establish a one to two nurse-to-technician staffing ratio for kidney dialysis units within the state.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]